area and in reserve forest land, no report of official connivance in such illicit cultivation has been received.

The State Governments have been requested to conduct survey of suspected areas of illicit ganja cultivation and take effective steps for destruction of such illicit cultivation.

Illicit cultivation of ganja is an offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, attracting rigorous imprisonment for a term, which may extend to 5 years and besides, liability to fine which may extend to Rs. 50,000/-

The courts have been empowered to impose fines exceeding the above limit. The Act also enjoins upon every officer of the Government (including village officers) to give information of such illicit cultivation when it comes to their knowledge and failure to do so attracts punishment.

The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, inter alia, provides for detention of any person indulging in such illicit cultivation.

Wage Bill of Central Government employees

1034. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Central Government employees and the total wage bill in 1980 and 1988;

(b) what is the percentage of wage bill to the total Government expenditure in 1980 and 1988; and

(c) whether there is any plan to freeze the new appointments and total wage bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The total number of Central Government regular civilian employees as on 31st March, 1980 and 1988 was 33.21 lakhs and 38 lakhs (estimated) respectively and the total wage bill was Rs. 2426 crores in 1979-80 and Rs. 7514 crores (provisional) in 1987-88.

(b) The percentage of wage bill to total Government expenditure was 13.4 in 1979-80 and 11.55 in 1987-88.

(c) No, Sir.

Private placement of bonds by NTPC

1035. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permission has been given to the National Thermal Power Corporation to go in for private placement of bonds; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the amount and other terms agreed to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., has been allowed on 27th March 1989 to float Rs. 500 crores as 9 per cent tax-free bonds in the denomination of Rs. 1,000/- each on private placement basis with Nationalised banks and their subsidiaries with a condition that atleast 20 per cent of the above issue shall be offered for sale at par over the counter to general public within three months from the date of allotment of the bonds. The bonds are redeemable at par after ten years from the date of allotment.